

Regarding docket 99-325, I have heard IBCO tested on both WNEW, 102.7 MHz New York City and WPST, 97.5 MHz, Trenton, N.J. My location is approximately 20 miles southwest of New York City and 20 miles northeast of Trenton (about 55 miles northeast of Philadelphia). In both cases, the IBOC transmissions took out all adjacent channel stations that can be heard in this area, with the exception of WMGK, 102.9 MHz, Philadelphia who has a strong signal in this area. However, at times when the IBOC signal was turned-up on WNEW's signal, it, too, had reception problems. (The WNEW form varied in strength considerably during the testings and had "buzzing noises" on the sidebands while the WPST form sounded like "white noise"). In this area of Central New Jersey and a bit further to the southwest, there are many cases where New York and Philadelphia stations are on adjacent frequencies (and in some cases, the same frequency). With many newer radios, certain car radios in particular, either station is quite or very listenable. Add IBOC and it is my contention you will greatly degrade the signals to the point where they are no longer usable. I do not believe any tests have been conducted in an area like this to determine what happens when two strong adjacent channel stations are both using IBOC (for the sake of argument, let's use both WNEW and WMGK on 102.7 and 102.9 respectively). Based on what I have heard, I would think they would degrade each other's signals to the point of being unlistenable in a very large area of New Jersey, from roughly So. Brunswick to Trenton. It would seem to me that IBOC needs a lot more refinement, to greatly reduce the bandwidth it now requires, before it can be adopted. Or digital requires its own part of the spectrum, which in my opinion, would be the better alternative.